

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE UTAH COUNTY COMMISSION FEBRUARY 9, 2015 IN THE COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE COUNTY BUILDING AT 152 EAST 100 NORTH, VERNAL, UTAH. MEETING COMMENCED AT 11:01 AM.

PARTICIPANTS: COMMISSIONERS MICHAEL MCKEE AND WILLIAM STRINGER

ATTENDANCE: JC BREWER, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE; ORLAN ANDERSON, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE; DIANE COLTHARP, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE; MICHELLE BROWN; RICK RYMERSON, VERNAL BLM; MOLLY RYAN, FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT; JODY HOLMES, BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN; GORDON HIRSCHI, BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN; WAYNE SIMPER, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE; JOHN HUNTING, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE; BRYAN MEIER, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE AND COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT; JON STEARMER, COUNTY ATTORNEY; MARY BERNARD, MEDIA; KRISTIN BAUMGARTEN, MEDIA; GREG COCHRAN ; CAROL LUCK, ROGER LUCK, QUENTIN JOHNSON, GRAZER; AND MICHAEL WILKINS, COUNTY CLERK – AUDITOR.

WELCOME: THOSE PRESENT INTRODUCED THEMSELVES.

MEETING WITH THE UTAH COUNTY PUBLIC LANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF CONGRESSMAN BISHOP'S PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE AND SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS CONTEMPLATED BY UTAH COUNTY TO ADDRESS UNRESOLVED PUBLIC LANDS DISPUTES IMPACTING OUR RESIDENTS AND ECONOMY.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE BEGAN THE DISCUSSION. EACH GROUP HAS CONCERNS. THEY HAVE ENDEAVORED TO HAVE A FULL PUBLIC PROCESS WITH A NUMBER OF MEETINGS WITH MANY INTERESTS. THE ONE THING THEY ALL HAVE IN COMMON IS THE WANT TO MANAGE PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTY RESIDENTS. UNANIMOUS APPROVAL IS IMPOSSIBLE BUT A STRONG CONSENSUS COULD MAKE IT WORK. TONIGHT'S MEETING IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSION BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE ALONG AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE AND COMMISSIONER STRINGER ADDRESSED THE RESOLUTION POINTS, THE GOALS, OF THE COUNTY'S PORTION OF THE LAND INITIATIVE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE GREATER CERTAINTY THAN WE HAVE HAD IN YEARS PAST. THE GOALS ARE NOT IN ANY PARTICULAR ORDER.

PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
(DRAFT)
UTAH COUNTY
RESOLUTION POINTS

UTAH COUNTY BELIEVES THE POINTS LISTED BELOW ARE CRUCIAL TO REACHING AN AGREEMENT WHICH BENEFITS ALL PARTIES AS WE MOVE FORWARD WITH THE UTAH COUNTY PORTION OF CONGRESSMAN BISHOP'S PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE.

- FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE ENERGY ZONE DESIGNATION WITHIN UTAH COUNTY.
- RESOLVE OUTSTANDING LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES WITHIN UTAH COUNTY INCLUDING –
 - REVISE THE RED ROCKS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE UTAH COUNTY
 - REVISE THE CURRENT LAWSUIT AGAINST THE VERNAL RMP TO EXCLUDE UTAH COUNTY
 - DIRECT THE BLM TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL TO PREPARE MASTER LEASING PLANS IN UTAH COUNTY
- ACCESS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AND THE ABILITY TO PERFORM PREVENTATIVE AND CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE IN DESIGNATED AREAS.
- RELEASE OF THE WINTER RIDGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA CURRENTLY MANAGED BY THE BLM AS WILDERNESS.
- ACCESS TO THE MINERAL ESTATE BENEATH DESIGNATED AREAS WILL BE ALLOWED, PROVIDED THE OPERATIONS DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE DESIGNATED AREAS.
- UTAH COUNTY CLASS B AND D ROADS WILL BE RECOGNIZED WITHIN DESIGNATED AREAS.

- CONTINUED ACCESS TO LANDS AND THE TRADITIONAL USES AROUND THE DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A UTILITY CORRIDOR ALONG THE SEEP RIDGE ROAD.
- TRANSFER OF THE LAND AROUND ASHLEY SPRINGS TO UTAH COUNTY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE WATER SOURCE.
- REVISIT THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN TO RE-EXAM THE DESIGNATIONS OF CERTAIN SPECIFIC ROUTES.
- CREATION OF A NATIONAL RECREATION AND GEOLOGIC AREA WITHIN THAT PART OF THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST LOCATED IN UTAH COUNTY.
- REMOVE THE ROADLESS DESIGNATION FROM THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST, LOCATED IN UTAH COUNTY.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE ENERGY ZONE DECLARATION WITHIN UTAH COUNTY. DUCHESNE AND UTAH COUNTIES MAKE UP THE MAJORITY OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION WITHIN THE STATE OF UTAH. THIS ECONOMIC ENGINE MUST CONTINUE TO RUN.

WE NEED THE RED ROCKS WILDERNESS PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE UTAH COUNTY. THIS WOULD BE A REVISION TO THE VERNAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN CREATED BY THE BLM IN OCTOBER 2008. THIS PLAN SHOWS WHERE LEASING WOULD OCCUR AS WELL AS LOCATIONS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROTECTION. THIS BROUGHT FORTH A LAWSUIT AS THE BLM DID NOT CONSIDER WILDERNESS THE SAME WAY RED ROCKS WILDERNESS. THIS IS BY POLICY RATHER THAN BY LAW.

ANOTHER POINT IS TO DIRECT THE BLM TO WITHDRAW THE PROPOSAL TO PREPARE MASTER LEASING PLANS IN UTAH COUNTY. THIS IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS TO GO AROUND THE RMP. THIS WOULD PROVIDE MORE CERTAINTY. THIS BILL WOULD MAKE REGULATIONS LAW AND MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THEM. THE BLM AND FOREST SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO DO AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. THERE WILL BE SOME DETAILS LEFT OPEN TO ALLOW FOR THE SPECIFIC USE AND THE ABILITY OF THE LAND TO MEET THAT USE. MUCH DRILLING IS BEING DONE ON PRIVATE LAND BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN TOO DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN PERMITS ON PUBLIC LANDS. THIS HAS ALSO BEEN SOMEWHAT OF AN ISSUE IF THE LANDOWNER DOESN'T ACTUALLY OWN THE MINERAL RIGHTS. THERE IS CLOSE TO A MILLION ACRES THAT IS CURRENTLY NOT AVAILABLE BUT SHOULD BE.

ANOTHER POINT TO ADDRESS IS ACCESS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AND THE ABILITY TO PERFORM PREVENTATIVE AND CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE ON INFRASTRUCTURE IN DESIGNATED AREAS. IF THERE IS A CURRENT USE, THIS WOULD REMAIN A VALID RIGHT, A GRANDFATHER CLAUSE. THIS WOULD ALLOW RESERVOIRS AND DAMS TO BE MAINTAINED FOR USE.

ANOTHER UTAH COUNTY GOAL FOR THIS BILL IS TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE MINERAL ESTATE BENEATH DESIGNATED AREAS PROVIDED THE OPERATIONS DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE DESIGNATED AREA. MINING IS A DIFFERENT ISSUE THAN DRILLING. DIRECTIONAL DRILLING IS NO LONGER AN ISSUE AND IS BECOME MORE OF A COMMON PRACTICE. WE DON'T HAVE TO SEE IMPACTS ON THE SURFACE TO REACH PRODUCT. JON STEARMER ADDED EXISTING DISTURBANCES CAN BE USED TO REACH THEM. THE BLM AND FOREST SERVICE WOULD HAVE TO DO AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. THE AREAS WOULD BE MAINTAINED FOR WILDLIFE AND CULTURAL AND OTHER USES. THE NEXT PHASE, WILL ADDRESS MORE DETAILS IN REGARDS TO THE AMOUNTS OF ACREAGE ALLOWED TO DISTURB AT ONE TIME AND OTHER SPECIFICS.

THE COUNTY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE THE WINTER RIDGE WILDERNESS STUDY AREA RELEASED. IT IS CURRENTLY MANAGED BY THE BLM AS WILDERNESS. RESOLVING ROAD ISSUES WITHIN THE COUNTY WOULD BE A HUGE BENEFIT. MILLIONS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON THE RS2477 LAWSUIT REGARDING 12000 ROADS.

ANOTHER GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH A UTILITY CORRIDOR ALONG SEEP RIDGE ROAD. THIS WOULD ALLOW PIPELINES, TRANSMISSION ETC. THIS WOULD NOT MEAN THERE ARE CLEARANCES AND

PERMITS TO OBTAIN IN ORDER TO PLACE SOMETHING WITHIN THIS CORRIDOR. THERE ARE A LOT OF GROUPS THAT DO NOT WANT TO SEE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN ANY WAY.

THE ASHLEY SPRINGS NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED. IT PROVIDED WATER FOR THE ENTIRE VALLEY. THE COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO TRANSFER PROPERTY OWNERSHIP FOR THE AREA AROUND ASHELY SPRINGS. THERE ARE MANY ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE GRAZERS, RECREATORS, AND PHOSPHATE MINERS.

SOME ROUTES CLOSED IN THE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE FOREST SERVICE SHOULD BE OPENED UP. THE MAP WAS ZOOMED IN TO SHOW THE FOREST SERVICE AREA AND THE PLANS FOR IT. THERE ARE MANY USES ON THE FOREST INCLUDING GRAZING, WATER, AND RECREATION. TRYING TO COME UP WITH LANGUAGE FOR ALL USES WOULD BE A DRAFTING NIGHTMARE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER CONTINUED. THE WINTER RIDGE IS ON THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTY AND IT IS RECOMMENDED NOT TO MOVE FORWARD WILDERNESS DESIGNATION DOES NOT MIX WITH OIL, GAS, AND ROADS. THE GOALS OF UINTAH COUNTY ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SOME OF THE THINGS GRAND COUNTY MAY WANT. LASTLY, THE ROADLESS DESIGNATION FOR ROADS WITH THE ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST SHOULD BE REMOVED.

THE COMMISSIONERS THEN BEGAN MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION ON A FEW OF THE BULLET POINTS.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER POINTED OUT THE BILL MUST PASS THROUGH CONGRESS, THE HOUSE, AND THE SENATE. A VETO FROM THE PRESIDENT IS NOT LIKELY BECAUSE IT IS A STATE SPECIFIC BILL, BUT WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENSURE THERE ARE ENOUGH VOTES IN THE SENATE TO OVERRIDE A VETO. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, SOME CONCESSIONS HAVE TO BE MADE, WE MUST ACCOMMODATE BOTH SIDES. THE MAPS BECOME REFLECTIVE OF HOW WE CREATE WHAT IS NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE CONTINUED THE ASHLEY SPRINGS AREA THE COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OWNERSHIP OF IS OWNED BY BLM AND SITLA AND A SMALL PORTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. THE COUNTY WOULD LIKE TO EXCHANGE THESE LANDS FOR COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY SLIGHTLY NORTH BUT TO THE EAST, THE SAME AMOUNT OF ACREAGE. CURRENTLY, THE OTHER PARTIES ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS EXCHANGE. THIS IS A 22 MILE KARST SYSTEM AND BLASTING DUE TO PHOSPHATE MINING COULD BE A HUGE ISSUE. THIS DOESN'T MEAN OUR ORDINANCE CAN'T OR WON'T BE CHALLENGED. THIS WOULD BE A WATER PROTECTION AREA THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR RECREATIONAL USE AS WELL AS GRAZING USES. THERE IS CONCERN THE AUM'S (ANIMAL UNIT MONTH) ARE CONTINUALLY DWINDLING.

QUENTIN JOHNSON ADDRESSED THE MEETING CONCERNED WITH THE AUM NUMBERS. THE PROPERTY THE COUNTY WANTS TO OWN ONLY HAS 150 TO 200 AIMS WHILE THE PROPERTY THEY WANT TO TRADE FOR HAS 989. THIS WOULD NOT BE A FAIR TRADE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ACKNOWLEDGED HIS CONCERNS. THE OTHER ENTITIES WOULD HAVE TO WORK OUT THE AUM'S ON THE PROPERTY IF THEY WERE IN AGREEANCE WITH THE EXCHANGE. JON STEARMER WAS RECENTLY IN A MEETING THAT INCLUDED SITLA AND THE PHOSPHATE COMPANY. SITLA COULD APPROVE AN ACTIVE MINE SITE AND STILL ALLOW GRAZING AFTER THE AREA IS RECLAIMED. THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT AND NOT ALL OF THE GRAZING RIGHTS WILL BE LOST.

WAYNE SIMPER ASKED IF TIMBER HARVEST WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE AREA. JON STEARMER INDICATED IT COULD BE POSSIBLE. THE AREA WILL BE MANAGED FOR WATER PROTECTION SO A USE THAT WAS NOT DETRIMENTAL TO THE WATER FLOW COULD BE POSSIBLE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER CONTINUED. THE FIRE FUEL BUILDUP WOULD ALSO BE A CONCERN IN THIS AREA AND FUEL REDUCTION WOULD BE A PART OF PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE. A CATASTROPHIC FIRE COULD DAMAGE THE WATER SYSTEM. MANY TOOLS WOULD BE USED TO PROTECT THE WATERSHED. THE DETAILS WOULD BE A PARTY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES. THIS IS NOT A SINGLE USE AREA. THE EXISTING ROADS ARE OUT OF THE WATER PROTECTION AREAS. SNOWMOBILES ARE A PERMITTED USE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED SOMETIMES A TRAIL IS HARMFUL FOR A WATERSHED. ANYTHING THAT MAY BE DETRIMENTAL WOULD HAVE TO BE REMOVED OR

RELOCATED. KALER HOLLOW IS TO THE NORTH OF THE AREA. IT INCLUDES THE CURRENT WATER PIPELINE FROM OAKS PARK TO THE GORGE.

SOME ROUTES THAT HAVE BEEN CLOSED ON THE FOREST WILL NEED TO BE OPENED. ESPECIALLY THOSE ALLOWING ACCESS TO HEAD GATES AND RESERVOIRS. A CONGRESSIONAL DESIGNATION IS CRUCIAL TO ENSURING THESE ROADS STAY OPEN. THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OPEN UP HORSESHOE PARK ROAD AND A NEW ROAD CONNECTING TO MASSEY RANCH. MOLLY RYAN NOTED THE REOPENING OF A ROAD OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW ROAD WOULD REQUIRE NEPA (NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT).

ORLAN ANDERSON ALSO ADDRESSED THE MEETING. HE IS CONCERNED IF THERE ISN'T LANGUAGE REFERRING TO AN END DATE, FUNDING, AND THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY, IT WON'T BE TAKEN CARE OF. THINGS GET LOST AND FORGOTTEN OVER TIME. COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED. THERE WILL HAVE TO BE A PRIORITY CHANGE TO GET THINGS DONE OR THEY JUST LINGER. WE ALSO HAVE TO BE CAREFUL HOW WE ASK FOR SPECIFICS. CONGRESS IS UNLIKELY TO TAKE SITE SPECIFIC ACTION IN THE LAW.

MOLLY RYAN ALSO NOTED CHANGES ARE OFTEN MADE AND MANAGERS ARE DIRECTED TO ADD THEM TO THEIR BUDGETS AND ADJUST THEIR PRIORITY LISTS BUT THEY DON'T USUALLY GET THE FUNDING NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE CHANGES. THE FOREST MAY RECEIVE A SMALL INFUSION BUT WILL BE LEFT TO MOVE PRIORITIES AND ALLOW FOR FLEXIBILITY.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE MOVED ON TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREA ON THE FOREST AND THE PROPOSED SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS (RMA). THERE IS A PUSH BY SNOWMOBILERS TO ADD A CORRIDOR ACROSS THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE WILDERNESS AREA TO CONNECT THE TWO RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREAS THAT BORDER WILDERNESS ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDES. THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS DO NOT WANT THE CORRIDOR. IT IS CLEAR THAT ISOLATING THE TWO AREAS IS A HORRIBLE IDEA.

ORLAN ANDERSON INDICATED WHEN HE RIDES IN THE WINTER, THEY UNLOAD AT MOSBY AND RIDE INTO CLIFF AND WHITEROCKS, OVER THE BALLY, INTO DEADMAN AND INTO LAKESHORE. THIS ROUTE IS USED QUITE A BIT. HE DOES NOT APPROVE OF RESTRICTING MORE FOREST SERVICE LAND AVAILABLE FOR USE AS THERE IS SO LITTLE TO BEGIN WITH. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS SHOULD BE PROMOTED.

GREG COCHRAN IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WILDERNESS AREA. THIS TAKES UP MUCH OF THE BEST SNOWMOBILING ON THE FOREST. MANY RIDE AROUND LIDDY AND MARSH PEAKS. THE BEST SNOW IS ABOVE TREE LINE. SNOWMOBILERS ONLY USE TRAILS TO GET TO WHERE THEY WANT TO RIDE. COMMISSIONER STRINGER NOTED THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO SEE ALL THE RESPONSES TO THESE PROPOSED AREAS. THE COMMENTS WILL BE PUT TOGETHER AND THE BEST COMPROMISE POSSIBLE WILL BE ATTEMPTED. DETAILED RESPONSES ARE NECESSARY BUT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME THIS EVENING FOR ALL OF THEM.

WAYNE SIMPER SUGGESTED A WILDERNESS AREA BE PROPOSED IN A SPOT THAT IS LESS WANTED FOR SNOWMOBILING ACTIVITIES. COMMISSIONER STRINGER RESPONDED NONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS ARE SNOWMOBILERS. THE AREA PROPOSED IS NOT THROWN AWAY. THESE MEETINGS ARE TO INDICATE WHAT EVERYONE IS WILLING TO LIVE WITH AND STILL REACH THE GOALS.

QUENTIN JOHNSON TOOK A MOMENT TO ADDRESS THE PROPOSED LAND TRADE. WHEN SIMPLOT BLASTS, IT SHAKES THE WHOLE VALLEY AND THE MOUNTAIN. THE PROPOSED TRADE IS NOT THAT FAR AWAY FROM THE PROPOSED WATER PROTECTION AREA AND BLASTING THERE MAY STILL CAUSE WATER ISSUES. IT'S REALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. COMMISSIONER MCKEE AGREED AND NOTED THERE ARE STILL MANY ISSUES THAT HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE ANYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO MINE IN THE AREA IN ANY WAY. TRADING FOR PROPERTY FURTHER AWAY IS A GREAT POINT AND THE COUNTY WOULD BE IN FAVOR BUT THE

PHOSPHATE VALUES HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION AS WELL. THE LAND EXCHANGE MUST HAVE SIMILAR VALUE.

RITCHIE ANDERSON ASKED WHEN THIS BILL WOULD BE PRESENTED. ROB BISHOP IS HOPING TO HAVE OUR PROPOSALS BY MARCH 31ST. WE MUST GET THE INPUT NOW IN ORDER TO GET THE DETAILS TOGETHER FOR THE BILL TO BE WRITTEN UP FROM. MANY OF THE DETAILS HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AHEAD OF TIME BUT MAY NOT BE WRITTEN IN THE LANGUAGE. TOO MUCH DETAIL WILL CAUSE IT TO FAIL. THE LAW HAS NO WIGGLE ROOM. THIS BILL WILL BE THE FRAMEWORK TO DIRECT THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN INCORPORATING THE COMPONENTS OF THE BILL. AS STATED SEVERAL TIMES, THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER CONTINUED. ONCE IT IS WRITTEN AS A LAW, THE COUNTY WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECOMMEND CHANGES. THE COUNTY WILL NOT SUPPORT A BILL THAT IS NOT WRITTEN AS WE DEEM NECESSARY. TECHNICALLY, THEY DON'T HAVE TO ASK THE COUNTY FOR APPROVAL, BUT WE ARE HOPING TO STEER IT AS MUCH AS REASONABLY POSSIBLE TO GET THE GOALS ACCOMPLISHED. BOUNDARIES WILL BE SPECIFIC WITH MAPS AND THERE WILL NOT BE ANY BUFFER ZONES.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE MOVED ON TO THE CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED FOR THE MONUMENT. IT WILL BE MANAGED FOR THE NATURAL AREA SO PRESERVE PETROGLYPHS AND PART OF IT IS WITHIN THE SAGE GROUSE AREA. THERE IS VERY LITTLE POSSIBILITY FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT. SCOTT CHEW HAS A PIPELINE AND A RESERVOIR IN THE AREA. HE IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED IF THE LANGUAGE IS DONE CORRECTLY TO PROTECT HIS RIGHT TO MAINTAIN AND USE THEM AS HE DOES NOW. ILENE MCLEAN OWNS A PIECE OF PROPERTY HERE AND IS NOT PARTICULARLY FOND OF THE PROTECTION PLAN BUT WILL CONSENT IF SHE IS GUARANTEED HER CURRENT OPERATIONS CAN CONTINUE UNINHIBITED.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER ADDED THE TRADITIONAL USES OF AND AROUND THE MONUMENT WILL BE PRESERVED. THIS AREA COULD GREASE THE WHEELS FOR OTHER THINGS TO BE DONE IN OTHER AREAS. THE SAGE GROUSE IN THIS AREA MUST BE PROTECTED AS PART OF THEIR CONSERVATION PLAN. JON STEARMER ADDED THERE ARE SOME ROADS INVOLVED IN RS2477 LITIGATION IN THIS AREA AS WELL. WE ARE NOT FOCUSING ON ROADS THAT ARE REDUNDANT OR DO NOT GO ANYWHERE. ROADS MUST HAVE A DESTINATION. THERE ARE SOME ROADS THAT AREN'T EVEN IN EXISTENCE ANY MORE. THERE ARE CERTAIN ROADS THAT MUST BE PRESERVED FOR HUNTERS TO USE AS ACCESS. ONCE THE RS2477 LEGISLATION IS SETTLED OUT, THE COUNTY WILL RECEIVE A DEED FOR THESE ROADS AND OBTAIN OWNERSHIP. SOME OF THE DIAMOND MOUNTAIN RIM ROAD IS CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE COUNTY BUT NOT ALL OF IT. THE BLM WOULD MANAGE THE CONSERVATION AREA. SITLA WOULD LIKE TO TRADE THEIR PROPERTIES WITHIN THIS AREA WITH THE BLM SO THE BLM CAN OWN THE ENTIRE AREA.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE DIRECTED DISCUSSION TO THE WHITE RIVER AREA. THIS IS ONE OF THE FIRST PLACES CONSIDERED FOR WILDERNESS IN UTAH. THE BLM HAS IT PART OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) FROM 2008. THERE ARE 6000 ACRES THAT CANNOT BE LEASED. IT IS DETERMINED IT COULD BE MANAGED AS A NATURAL AREA SIMILAR TO WILDERNESS. IT WOULD LEAVE IT AVAILABLE FOR LEASE WITH NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY. COMPANIES COULD DRILL IN OUTLYING AREAS AND DIRECTIONAL DRILL INTO THIS AREA. THIS WOULD INCLUDE A HALF MILE CORRIDOR ALONG THE RIVER AS IT HAS BEEN FOR MANY YEARS. IT WILL REMOVE THE AREA FROM THE BLM RMP. IT WOULD NOT BE CLOSED TO GRAZING. ROADS WILL BE RETAINED. ONLY TWO ROADS, ATCHEE AND SADDLE TREE, CLASS B COUNTY ROADS, WON'T BE SETTLED AND WILL LIKELY GO TO ON TO COURT.

JON STEARMER CONTINUED. THESE TWO ROADS ARE GOOD EXAMPLES. MANY ROADS WON'T BE SETTLED AND SOME WILL GO ON TO COURT. OTHER ROADS WILL LIVE OR DIE IN LITIGATION. THERE IS SOME RISK INVOLVED. THE COUNTY WILL HOLD TIGHT TO THESE TWO ROADS.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER FILLS THIS CONSERVATION AREA IS A WIN-WIN SITUATION. THERE IS A LITTLE TRIBAL ALLOTMENT CARVED OUT OF THE AREA AS WELL AS PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNED BY ANADARKO. THEY MAY BE USING IT FOR MITIGATION TO DEVELOP OTHER AREAS.

JC BREWER NOTED THEY CAN DIRECTIONAL DRILL ABOUT TWO MILES NOW. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO MOVE AWAY FROM RIVERS AND SENSITIVE AREAS AND STILL GET TO THE MINERALS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE AS WELL. COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED.

RITCHIE ANDERSON INDICATED THERE IS SOME GILSONITE IN THIS AREA TOO. THE COMMISSIONERS AGREED AND THEY HAVE SPOKEN WITH JIM LEKAS ABOUT IT. THEY WILL BE MINDFUL OF THIS ISSUE BUT SO SURFACE OCCUPANCY WOULD NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH GILSONITE.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE THEN DIRECTED THE DISCUSSION TO THE DESOLATION CANYON AREA. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PLACE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY. THEY WANT PROTECTION FROM THE ENCROACHMENT OF INDUSTRY. GASCO HAS MANY NEIGHBORING LEASES IN THIS AREA. THE CURRENT EIS INDICATES LEASES WITHIN ¼ OF A MILE. THE COUNTY PUT TOGETHER A PROPOSAL FOR A HALF MILE AND THE EXISTING EIS ALL A PART OF THIS WILDERNESS AREA. THERE WOULD NOT BE A BUFFER ZONE AND IT WILL NOT AFFECT THE LEASES CURRENTLY SURROUNDING.

JON STEARMER ADDED SOME OF THE LEASES ARE WITHIN THE ENERGY ZONE. ACCORDING TO THE EIS, THERE CAN BE 1300 WELLS IN THIS AREA. THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY IS PUSHING FOR THE ENTIRE AREA TO BE WILDERNESS BUT THAT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. IT IS ACCEPTABLE AS WILDERNESS IN THE AREA WHERE THERE ARE NO LEASES. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ADDED THE OLD AIR STRIP IS IN THIS AREA. THE BLM CANNOT MOVE A WELL MORE THAN 200 METERS WITHOUT REASON. THE LEASE RIGHT CANNOT BE TAKEN AWAY. THE WILDERNESS AREA WOULD REACH ALL THE WAY TO GREEN RIVER, UTAH.

THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENT HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE BOUNDARIES ON MCCOOK RIDGE. THIS AREA HAS LESS POTENTIAL FOR OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT. IT IS HIGHER IN ELEVATION AND ROUGH COUNTRY. IT IS A GOOD AREA FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CAN EXIST WITH THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

JC BREWER ADDED HE CANNOT SUPPORT THE WILDERNESS AREA PROPOSAL UNLESS THE CURRENT USES ARE ALLOWED. SPORTSMEN AND RECREATIONALISTS MUST HAVE ACCESS AND THE ROADS HAVE TO BE GUARANTEED.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED. EXISTING DISTURBANCES WOULD REMAIN BUT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY OFF ROAD HORN HUNTING OR OFF ROAD MOTORIZED TRAVEL ALLOWED. JC BREWER AND ORLAN ANDERSON AGREED, SUCH THINGS ARE NOT ALLOWED AS IS. NEW DISTURBANCES WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. WILDLIFE PROTECTION WOULD BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND PRODUCTION WOULD HAVE TO COMPLY. COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED WE HAVE SOME OF THE BEST SAGE GROUSE HABITAT IN THE STATE BECAUSE OF LIVESTOCK GRAZING. IMPROVEMENTS FOR ONE USE TYPICALLY BECOME IMPROVEMENTS FOR ALL. JC BREWER AGREED.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE THANKED EVERYONE FOR THE MANY GREAT COMMENTS. THEY WILL IMPLEMENT WHAT THEY CAN INTO THE PLANS. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE SNOWMOBILERS AND GRAZERS.

RITCHIE ANDERSON ASKED IF THE COMMISSIONERS HAVE SPOKEN WITH DAVE CHIVERS. THEY KNOW HE GRAZES THERE BUT NOT SPOKEN WITH HIM. COMMISSIONER MCKEE INDICATED THE CONSERVATION PLANS WOULD NOT AFFECT GRAZING. RITCHIE ANDERSON WANTED TO ENSURE THE USES AND PERMITS CURRENTLY IN PLACE ARE NOT AFFECTED. HE IS CONCERNED THE DETAILS IN REGARDS TO THE AUM'S ARE NOT GOING TO BE INCLUDED. THE COMMISSIONERS UNDERSTAND HIS CONCERNS AND COMPLETELY AGREE. THEY ARE USING LANGUAGE FROM OTHER BILLS THAT ADDRESS THE SAME ISSUES. THE COMMISSIONERS WILL ONLY SUPPORT THE BILL IF IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COUNTY. RITCHIE ANDERSON AGREED. HE SUGGESTED THEY WATCH FOR

LANGUAGE THAT IS A DETRIMENT TO THE COUNTY HIDDEN BY LANGUAGE THAT WOULD BE A BENEFIT.

ORLAN ANDERSON EXPRESS HIS CONCERN. THE MORE THEY WORK ON THIS THE LESS ASSURED HE IS OF THE CERTAINTY TO HAVE THEIR RIGHTS CONSIDERED. RITCHIE ANDERSON ADDED IT FEELS LIKE KIDS PLAYING ON A PLAYGROUND AND SEPARATED INTO SEPARATE SECTIONS. SOME THINGS ARE ALLOWED IN CERTAIN AREAS AND NOT IN OTHERS. MANY OF THE USES THAT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN WILDERNESS ARE ALREADY TAKING PLACE AND HAVE NOT SHOWN TO BE A DETRIMENT. MULTIPLE USE IS POSSIBLE; WE SIMPLY NEED TO WORK TOGETHER. COMMISSIONER STRINGER AGREED. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION IS NOT MULTIPLE USE BUT THE OTHER AREAS PROPOSED ARE. MULTIPLE USE DOES NOT MEAN EVERY USE EVERY WHERE. THERE ARE SOME AREAS THAT WON'T COMPLY WITH ALL USES. THE CONSERVATION AREAS ARE A MULTIPLE USE BUT WITH MORE DEFINITION. WILDERNESS NO LONGER MEANS WHAT IT DID IN THE 60'S. MANY ISSUES ARE PURELY POLITICAL, NOT LOGICAL OR REASONABLE.

JON STEARMER AGREED. THERE IS A LOT OF PLAYGROUND BICKERING AND IT HAS BEEN THIS WAY FOR A LONG TIME. THE LAWSUITS ARE A RESULT AND A WAY TO RESOLUTION. COMMISSIONER MCKEE AGREED AND NOTED IF THE BILL WAS STRICTLY FOR UTAH COUNTY IT WOULD NOT STAND A CHANCE BUT EASTERN UTAH AS A WHOLE IS INVOLVED. IT WILL NOT BE SUPPORTED IF THERE COST IS MORE THAN WE ARE WILLING TO PAY.

THE COMMISSIONERS NOTED THE REQUEST IS FOR 400,000 ACRES OF WILDERNESS. THE COUNTY IS OFFERING 35,000 AND PLANNING ON SEEING THAT MUCH RELEASED. IT WAS ALSO NOTED THE WRONG 35,000 COULD BE AS BAD THE ENTIRE 400,000 ACRES.

ORLAN ANDERSON INDICATED HE SAW SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPEN IN IDAHO. THEY COME OUT AND REQUEST SO MANY ACRES KNOWING IT IS NOT POSSIBLE. THEY USE THIS AS A BARGAINING CHIP TO GET ALL THEY POSSIBLY CAN FROM THE INVOLVED ENTITIES SO IT SEEMS LIKE A MIDDLE GROUND. HE URGED THE COMMISSIONERS TO BE CAUTIOUS OF THIS TRAP. THE COUNTY SHOULD BE ON THE OFFENSE NOT JUST THE DEFENSE.

MICHELLE BROWN ASKED IF THE DRAFT WAS AVAILABLE. IT IS NOT. THEY ARE HOPING TO GET THE PROPOSALS IN BY THE END OF MARCH AND A DRAFT WILL TAKE SOME TIME AFTER. THE REVISED MAPS AND THE RESOLUTION BULLET POINTS HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE AND HAVE CHANGED SO OFTEN THAT A CURRENT VERSION HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. HE ALSO URGED THE LOCAL BLM OFFICE TO BE CAUTIOUS WHEN WEIGHING IN; BLM OPINIONS SHOULD GO THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS. HOWEVER, THEY ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO PROVIDE INPUT AS CONCERNED CITIZENS. COMMISSIONER MCKEE NOTED THERE WILL BE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION BUT HE DOESN'T SEE MANY FURTHER CHANGES TO COME FORTH.

COMMISSIONER STRINGER ALSO CAUTIONED THE OFF ROAD COMMUNITY, WHO ARE PUTTING TOGETHER WRITTEN COMMENTS, TO WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MEETING AS THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL CHANGES FOR THEM TO REVIEW. ORLAN ANDERSON INDICATED THEY MAY NOT HAVE BOUNDARY COMMENTS BUT THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT AND WILL MOVE FORWARD.

IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IF THE MONUMENT IS MANAGED AS WILDERNESS THIS WOULD BE AN ALTERNATIVE TRADE. HOWEVER, IT MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AS THEY MAY VIEW IT AS LESS VALUABLE. THE TWO AREAS HAVE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VALUES. COMMISSIONER STRINGER ALSO NOTED THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT DOWNSIDE WHERE WE CAN'T LOOK OUTSIDE OUR OWN COUNTY LINES.

JC BREWER NOTED IT HAS BEEN TRIED BEFORE TO TURN THE MONUMENT TO PARK STATUS. IF THIS IS A SERIOUS OPTION, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DETAILS ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A MONUMENT AND A PARK AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE SURROUNDED PROPERTIES BY BOTH. COMMISSIONER MCKEE REPLIED IT HAS BEEN TRIED BUT THE COUNTY IS IN OPPOSITION, IT WOULD GREATLY AFFECT THE SURROUNDING PROPERTY.

JON STEARMER NOTED IF THERE IS HEARTBURN IN ONE AREA WE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER OTHERS IN ORDER TO REACH THE GOALS AND SOLVE THESE DECADE OLD PROBLEMS. OUT OF THE BOX IDEAS ARE EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL. COMMISSIONER MCKEE AGREED EXCEPT SOMETIMES OTHER AREAS ARE NOT REALLY VIABLE OPTIONS BECAUSE OF USES.

JOHN HUNTING ASKED IF THERE WAS ANOTHER CATEGORY AVAILABLE RATHER THAN WILDERNESS. JON STEARMER REPLIED THEY HAD REQUESTED THE CONSERVATION AREAS AS WELL. A SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MANAGING AS WILDERNESS IN THE SUMMER AND OPEN TO RECREATION IN THE WINTER MAY BE POSSIBLE. WE CAN NEGOTIATE BUT IT HAS TO BE WITH SOMETHING OF VALUE. HE ADDED THE RED ROCK WILDERNESS IS PART OF THE PENSTEMON CONSERVATION AREA AND IT CANNOT BE MANAGED AS WILDERNESS AS PER THE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT REGARDING THE PENSTEMON.

COMMISSIONER MCKEE IS NOT A FAN OF WILDERNESS IN ANY WAY BUT THERE ARE GOALS TO REACH AND IT WILL TAKE SOME WILDERNESS DESIGNATION TO DO SO. THE ENTIRE BILL WILL HAVE TO BE A COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO PASS.

ADJOURN: MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:26 P.M.

Michael McKee
MICHAEL MCKEE, CHAIR

Michael W. Wilkins
MICHAEL W. WILKINS, CLERK-AUDITOR

